

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1- 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A cleansing method, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a cleansing processing agent which comprises:

(1) a hydrolyzed polymer having an acrylonitrile unit;

(2) a unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene, and a combination thereof;

(3) hydrophilic groups introduced into said acrylonitrile unit by adding an acid or an alkali thereto; and

(4) ion groups being introduced into said acrylonitrile unit and said unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene, and a combination thereof, said polymer comprising said acrylonitrile unit and 20 to 95 mol% of said unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene and a combination thereof, and said polymer present in pieces not larger than 3.5 mesh; and wherein said selected unit comprises a molecular weight greater less than about 10,000,000 1,000,000;

(b) contacting said agent with a material to be cleaned without requiring a pre-treatment for swelling said agent, the material to be cleaned containing at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound; and

(c) absorbing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound from the material to be cleaned.

43. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is effluent water or an exhaust gas that is passed through a column charged with the hydrolyzed polymer.

44. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the hydrolyzed polymer is dispersed into effluent water.

45. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is a solid material.

46. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the hydrolyzed polymer said agent is sprayed onto the material to be cleaned.

47. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is soil in a landfill.

48. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is odor-emitting material.

49. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer comprises 5 to 80 mol % of an acrylonitrile unit.

50. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin (ABS), a styrene-acrylonitrile resin (SAN), and an acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (ABR).

51. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the acid is sulfuric acid.

52-54. (Cancelled).